

a circuit switched network, a packet switched network and a directory service to route a call,
comprising:

transmitting a query including a type of call service to the directory service to identify a
plurality of gateways between the packet switched network and circuit switched network that
match the predefined call service criteria;

sending a message to each of said plurality of gateways to obtain a trace route;

ranking the plurality of gateways based on the trace route of each of said plurality of
gateways;

translating an identifier of a destination of the call from a listing of telephone numbers
and associated internet protocol addresses in the directory service;

selecting a gateway with a highest ranking from said plurality of gateways; and

attempting to route the call over the selected gateway.

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32. (Amended) The method of claim ¹31, further comprising:

attempting to route the call over a next ranked gateway upon a failure of said attempting
to route the call over the selected gateway.

³
33. (Amended) The method of claim ¹31, wherein said ranking includes:

ranking highest any of said plurality of gateways that are accessible without traveling
through any intervening router;

ranking all of said plurality of gateways that are accessible without traveling through any intervening router in order of lowest latency, if more than one of said plurality of gateways are accessible without traveling through any intervening router; and

ranking lowest any remaining gateways of said plurality of gateways.

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34. (Amended) The method of claim ³~~33~~, wherein said ranking lowest any remaining gateways further includes:

ranking any remaining gateways of said plurality of gateways in order of lowest latency.

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35. (Amended) A hybrid network that includes a circuit switched communications network and a packet transmission network coupled to the circuit switched communications network, the hybrid network comprising:

a directory service;

a plurality of gateways connecting the circuit switched communication network and the packet network; and

a call router coupled to the circuit switched communications network with logic that transmits a query including a type of call service to the directory service to identify a plurality of gateways between the packet transmission network and the circuit switched communications network that match predefined call service criteria, sends a message to each of said plurality of gateways to obtain a trace route, ranks the plurality of gateways based on the trace route of each of said plurality of gateways, translates an identifier of a destination of the call from a listing of telephone numbers and associated internet protocol addresses in the directory service, selects a